

REMARKS

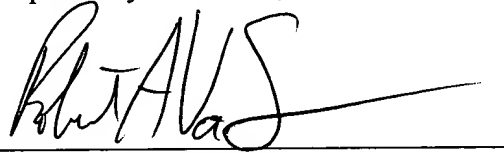
In the Office Action, claims 1-3 were rejected, and claims 4-11, 17-21, 23-27 and 29 were allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 4-11, 17-21, 23-27 and 29. By this Reply and Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended, and claims 1-11, 17-21, 23-27 and 29 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Carter reference, US Patent No.: 3,975,117 in view of the Parmeter, et al. reference, US Patent No.: 5,828,149. Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify certain aspects of the invention and is believed to be in condition for allowance along with dependent claims 2 and 3.

The Carter reference discloses a motor driven inducer equipped centrifugal pump in which lubricant is pumped to a location above certain bearings and allowed to flow or "leak" downwardly to the bearings. The Parmeter, et al. reference discloses an inducer pump located within an electric submersible pump motor in which lateral lubrication passages are disposed in the device shaft. However, the cited references, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest the elements recited in amended claim 1, including the recitation of a lubricant pump extending around the circumference of a shaft and "having a pump body with an eccentric oil cavity, and a pump rotor disposed in the eccentric oil cavity" for pumping lubricant to a bearing. Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited references and should be in condition for allowance. Claims 2 and 3 depend from amended, independent claim 1 and should be in condition for allowance for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1 and for the unique subject matter recited in each of those dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain additional amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims, or if the Examiner wishes to resolve other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert A. Van Someren', written over a horizontal line.

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